MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
25 October, 1977

AM
10:00 *CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.*

ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings: 22 November, 1977
20 December, 1977

B. Minutes of September 1977 meeting.

C. Solar Film Efficiency, Status Report on Study.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Goddard Memorial Sculpture by David Von Schlegell at Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts.

B. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

Marian Anderson Medal.

C. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Proposed New Agency Seal.

D. U.S. Postal Service

Old City Post Office, North Capitol Street & Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Handicapped Entrance.

E. Federal Reserve System

Federal Reserve Board Headquarters Building, Virginia Avenue & C Street, N.W., Landscaping - Resubmission.

F. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Columbarium, Arlington National Cemetery - Resubmission.

G. National Park Service, National Capital Region

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Renovations, Lighting, Paving, and Landscaping.

H. D.C. Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 78-4, Prospect Street, N.W., Georgetown University Housing for 510 Students.

2. Appendix 1.

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 78-5, 1889 F Street, N.W., New Office Building - Resubmission.

2. Appendix 2.

I. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

500 C Street, S.W., Hotel/Commercial/Office Complex.

Historic Subdivisions

Appendix 3.

INSPECTIONS

11:30 Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Defense Intelligence Agency Headquarters Building, Bolling/ Anacostia Tract, Proposed Site and Material Samples.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

25 October, 1977

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 77-178	1049 30th Street, N.W. Robert E. Morrison, Inc.	Proposed gatehouse residence, hotel/residential/commercial complex (resubmission refer to OG 77-160).

ACTION: Issue permit after working drawings have been submitted and approved by Commission of Fine Arts. Recommended for design development and detailing. Suggest some additional study on cornice side return. Submit material samples, working drawings, and landscape plans as developed. 9/30/77

179	1101 30th Street, N.W. JBG Associates	Construct apartment building (resubmission refer to OG 77-165).

ACTION: Preliminary design approved subject to further reduction of top floor by eliminating "Apartment L". Submit working drawings, material samples, and landscape plans as developed. Approved for design development. 9/30/77

184	3063-65 M Street, N.W. Cafe de Los Artistas	Rear addition for restaurant use (resubmission refer to OG 77-170).

ACTION: Issue permit. Submit brick sample. Recommend that brick be Calvert Standard #104, red range. 10/19/77

186	1023 31st Street, N.W. T. Manonsakis	Rehabilitation of and addition to existing structure for restaurant use (resubmission refer to OG 77-153).

ACTION: Approved for design development to include added vertical elements in western opening to right of entrance on first floor. Prior to issuing permit submit working drawings, material samples, details as developed. 9/30/77

188	3251 Prospect Street, N.W. Phenix, Inc.	New construction - residential, office and commercial (resubmission refer to OG 77-39).

ACTION: Issue permit for excavation and basic structure; submit for approval by Commission of Fine Arts additional material samples, landscape plans, signs, graphics, street furniture, paving materials, as developed. 9/30/77

190	1227 33rd Street, N.W. Karl Krenzer	Replace rear kitchen window with new window 5'4" x 5'7" with integral wood sash divisions (resubmission refer to OG 77-164).

ACTION: Issue permit. 10/12/77

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

25 October, 1977

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 77-192	1335 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Au Pied du Cochon	Rental of public space, erection of awning, modification of sidewalk cafe (resubmission refer to OG 77-189).
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. See OG 77-189 for previous action on awning. No increase in area recommended for rental of public space. 10/12/77	
193	3421 R Street, N.W. Mrs. Herbert Marks	Replace front six-over-six sash with six-over-nine sash (resubmission refer to OG 77-181).
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. See OG 77-181. 10/12/77	
194	1318 30th Street, N.W. Hugh Scott	Replace old garden fence.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 10/12/77	
OG 78-1	1667 35th Street, N.W. Enno Hobbing	Second story steel deck.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 10/12/77	
2	3509 M Street, N.W. Grover C. Carey	Enclose existing porch. No increase in size, no change to roof (resubmission refer to OG 77-166).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 10/7/77	
5	2824 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Howard Wilcox	Addition of three stories at rear (resubmission refer to OG 77-115).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 10/19/77	
6	1353 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. George Alafagines	Change existing awning and erect canvas one.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 10/19/77	
7	1225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Thomas Lumbard, Jr.	Replace fiber board simulated brick with real brick.
ACTION:	No objection to proposal. Submit brick sample or paint brick to match building. 10/19/77	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

25 October, 1977

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 78-9	3040 M Street, N.W. Pisces, Inc.	Canopy over door.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 10/19/77	
11	1055 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W. 1055 Thomas Jefferson Associates	One set of 8" x 3/8" gold anodized aluminum letters, Clarendon style.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 10/19/77	
12	3401 N Street, N.W. Alan Novak	Install gate to rear yard on 34th Street side.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 10/19/77	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

25 October, 1977

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
SL 77-98	1889 F Street, N.W. Inter-American Properties	Erect new single-tenant office building (resubmission refer to SL 77-42).
ACTION:	Returned without action at request of applicant for withdrawal from September 27, 1977 agenda. This application will require resubmission at a later date. 9/22/77	
114	Calvert Street & Adams Mill Road, N.W. Calvert Place Associates	Four-story brick townhouses, traditional style.
ACTION:	Preliminary approval for residential complex. Prior to issuance of permit, submit for approval working drawings, landscape plans, material samples. Recommend that planting scheme include trees to visually screen and break up parking areas and that landscaping screen retaining walls on park side. 9/30/77	
117	1776 G Street, N.W. Robert T. Foley Company	Eight-story office building, street floor commercial, basement parking.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 9/30/77	
119	444 North Capitol Street, N.W. Union First National Bank	Two identical signs, one on North Capitol Street, one on E Street.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 10/17/77	
120	4001-17 16th Street, N.W. Carolyn Bonnett	Construct new townhouses (resubmission refer to SL 77-95).
ACTION:	Issue permit. Request samples of exterior materials for review. 9/30/77	
121	418 Independence Avenue, S.E. Inez Sletta	Addition to kitchen.
ACTION:	Not in Shipstead-Luce area. 10/6/77	
122	2501 M Street, N.W. Erocia H.V.	Office building with retail on first floor (resubmission refer to SL 74-72).
ACTION:	Issue permit. Design approved. Exterior materials subject to further review by Commission. Recommend precast concrete in the reddish-brown color range and darker in value than limestone. Other materials to be complimentary. Request samples be displayed on site for Commission inspection. 9/28/77	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

25 October, 1977

NO.	*ADDRESS AND OWNER*	*PROJECT*
SL 77-		
123	*3151 Adams Mill Road, N.W.* *Clarence Wheeler*	*Enclose existing front porch.*
ACTION:	*Do not issue permit. Recommend retention of existing openings and porch structure, with either fixed glass or casement windows as an infill for existing openings, and a panelled door, either full height or with a small transom overhead. Retain existing balusters, constructing new wall behind. 9/30/77*	
124	*230 South Carolina Avenue, S.E.* *Bonnie Horan*	*Remove existing wood porch floor and replace with concrete.*
ACTION:	*Not in Shipstead-Luce area. 10/6/77*	
125	*2601 Klingle Road, N.W.* *Bowis & Cammermeyer*	*Change configuration of house to save existing trees (resubmission refer to SL 77-71).*
ACTION:	*Issue permit. 9/28/77*	
SL 78-		
1	*3151 Adams Mill Road, N.W.* *Clarence Wheeler*	*Enclose porch (resubmission refer to SL 77-123).*
ACTION:	*Issue permit. 10/14/77*	
2	*1609 Kennedy Place, N.W.* *Warren Grimes*	*Redwood deck on north (back) side of house.*
ACTION:	*Issue permit. 10/17/77*	
3	*730 15th Street, N.W.* *American Security Bank*	*Reduce and revise total signage as on attached drawings.*
ACTION:	*Issue permit. 10/19/77*	
4	*718 15th Street, N.W.* *American Security Bank*	*Reduce and revise total signage as on attached drawings.*
ACTION:	*Issue permit. 10/19/77*	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON HISTORIC SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS

25 October, 1977

NO.	*SQUARE, LOT, ADDRESS AND OWNER*	*DESCRIPTION*
HS 77-59	*Square 1173, Lots 807, 814-5, 817, 811* *3050 K Street, N.W.* *Georgetown Inland Corporation*	*Conversion of Assessment and Taxation Lots 811, 814, 815, 817, and 807 into one record lot.*
ACTION:	*No objection. See attached letter. 9/30/77*	
61	*Square 1280, Lot 989* *Wisconsin Avenue & Q Street, N.W.* *Randolph W. Reed, Jr.*	*Conversion of Assessment and Taxation Lot 989 into a record lot to allow for new commercial/apartment building.*
ACTION:	*No objection. 10/6/77*	
63	*Square 1290, Lot 827* *3323 Dent Place, N.W.* *I. Guyman Martin*	*Conversion of Assessment and Taxation Lot 827 into a record lot.*
ACTION:	*No objection. 10/12/77*	

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
25 October, 1977

The meeting convened at the offices of the Commission of Fine Arts at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present:	*Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman* *Hon. Victorine du Pont Homsey* *Hon. Eli S. Jacobs* *Hon. Kevin Roche*
Staff Present:	*Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary* *Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary* *Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson* *Mr. J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.* *Mrs. Sue A. Kohler* *Ms. Janice D. Lane* *Ms. Nancy H. Noyes*
National Capital Planning Commission Staff Present:	*Mr. David Richards*
House Committee on the District of Columbia Staff Present:	*Mr. Nelson F. Rimensnyder*

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of the next meetings were set at November 22 and December 20, 1977.

B. Minutes of the September 1977 meeting were approved unanimously.

C. Solar Film Efficiency, Status Report. Mr. Jennings presented a written report to the members, suggesting that there was no better way than reading it to summarize its contents. The Chairman said the report was of particular interest to Mr. Stone (not present) and that he and other missing members would be sent copies for questions or discussion at a later meeting.

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Goddard Memorial Sculpture by David von Schlegell at Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts. The Secretary presented photographs of the proposed piece of outdoor sculpture and its loca-

tion near the Johansen-designed Library. The Chairman stated that the artist was well known as a top professional, the members examined the material, and the design was unanimously approved.

EXHIBIT A

B. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

Marian Anderson Medal. Ms. Noyes presented photographs of the proposed design and introduced Mr. George Schafer of the Mint, the project representative. The members examined the design, understanding the obverse likeness of Miss Anderson was fron life, but finding the reverse overly complicated with hands, clouds, stars, and the world depicted. There was general agreement that the reverse ought to be simplified; Mr. Schafer offered to talk to the artist, Fr. Frank Gasparro, about some alternate designs. The Commission unanimously approved the obverse and asked for restudy of the reverse. EXHIBIT B

C. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Proposed New Agency Seal. The Secretary presented a color photograph of the proposed design. He pointed out a stylized eagle holding miniature symbols for several energy sources. The Commission examined the design, finding it overly-complicated, with fine detail which could not be successfully reduced in size. They unanimously disapproved the seal design. EXHIBIT C

D. U.S. Postal Service

Old City Post Office, North Capitol Street & Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Handicapped Entrance. There was no project representative present. The Assistant Secretary presented photographs and drawings showing a proposed concrete ramp to an existing doorway to the main floor facing east at the southeast corner of the building. Original neo-Classical stairs would be removed and replaced in an effort to run the ramp from the main floor level to the sidewalk level by placing most of it behind a parapet wall. The material would be concrete and would be exposed to the front court of the monumental building and visible from the main entrance. The Commission examined the materials, with Mr. Roche suggesting that some alternatives may be far better by keeping the ramp away from the building and its fine details. The other members concurred and unanimously disapproved the project. The Chairman suggested that the Commission take a look at the site later in the day with an eye toward finding an alternative ramp route or design (see Inspections).

EXHIBIT D

E. Federal Reserve System

Federal Reserve Board Headquarters Building, Virginia Avenue & C Street, N.W., Landscaping - Resubmission. The Secretary indicated that the Commission had asked for simplicity and additional information on this scheme to relandscape the new Federal Reserve Board Building. He said that Mr. John Denkler of the Federal Reserve staff was present and that the landscape consultants, Messers Wolfgang Oehm and James Van Sweden, were present. Mr. Oehm told the Commission of responding to to their September suggestions. Schemes to redesign the easternmost area around the fountain had been dropped in favor of a simple lawn around the fountain with some reinforcing of the plant materials along the sidewalk area facing C Street and Virginia Avenue. He showed perspective sketches of the area north of the building, indicating an effort to reinforce the existing good plantings and to provide secluded sitting areas with perennials and grasses flanking a newly defined north lawn. Mrs. Homsey said that her preference was to keep landscaping around monumental buildings simple and direct with a minimum variety of properly scaled species. The other members asked about several features, with the consensus that the design had moved into the right direction, but that further simplicity may be in order. The Commission unanimously approved the new walk scheme and tree and planting reinforcement for the sitting areas. EXHIBIT E

F. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Columbarium, Arlington National Cemetery - Resubmission. The Assistant Secretary presented a model and drawings confirming that the working drawings, now presented, conformed to an earlier Commission approval. He also indicated a number of finish materials to be presented by the project representatives: Messers Julius Smith and Carlton Dodge of the Army and Messers Joseph Brown and Basil Rousos, the architects. Mr. Rousos presented the design, indicating how it fit into the master plan for the cemetery and conformed to the plans approved by the Commission. He also presented a flagstone paving material and two types of limestone for interior finish for the partitions between and front panels of the 5000 crypts per columbarium unit. A sandblasted concrete was proposed for the outer perimeter. Eventually plans called for eight 5000-niche units. Initial construction was for only two units about the symmetrical axis facing the Tomb of the Unknowns. The Commission examined the material samples and drawings, confirming their approval of the original design. They did unanimously disapprove the use of raw concrete as an exterior material in this historic, monumental, and visually sensitive place.

Project representatives left the room to return later with an

additional material sample of white split-face brick. The members examined and discussed this other material, unanimously disapproving it. In the following discussion the members indicated that a natural and suitable stone material would be the appropriate thing for this important and visible location. EXHIBIT F

G. National Park Service, National Capital Region

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Renovations, Lighting, Paving, and Landscaping. The Secretary told of extensive repairs, waterproofing, and relighting to the Kennedy Center, introducing project representative Mr. Avery Faulkner, the architect, and Mr. Claude Engle, the lighting consultant. Drawings showing paving patterns and lighting proposals as well as some night photographs of the Kennedy Center were shown to the members. Mr. Faulkner told the Commission of the scope of the work and solutions to waterproofing and repaving problems which the Commission unanimously approved. Then Mr. Engle described problems with the existing exterior lighting indicating that the problems have not been with the design, but with relamping and the original fixtures acting like sumps and collecting water which would then be transmitted into the building through the conduits. Most original fixtures had been recessed into the paving of the terraces, both on the ground and on the roof. Mr. Engle was of the opinion that relocating the lights was in the first order and indicated studies of available places. His recommendation was to locate up-lights about 20 feet above grade on the main columns to bathe the outer edge of the underside of the overhanging roof with light which could then bounce down the exterior walls. He recommended a lower level of illumination than had been previously used, allowing the interior functions to show outside. For the roof terraces, he recommended using down-lights from the cornice, which could bounce off the light floor to the walls and soffit. He also recommended low level lights in the planting along the edge of the roof terrace.

The members examined the material submitted carefully, indicating that they liked the Center's original lighting and would use extreme caution in changing it. Careful study and mockups would be essential to achieving any satisfactory change. Mr. Roche indicated that the original architect, Edward D. Stone, Sr., really ought to be asked his opinion of any drastic illumination change. The members expressed concern with hanging the lights from the columns in hardware terms as well as light cut-off terms. The Commission unanimously expressed concern over the type of lighting proposed and withheld approval pending a satisfactory mockup. The other aspects of the waterproofing and renovation program were approved.

EXHIBIT G

H. D.C. Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 78-4, Prospect Street, N.W., Georgetown University Housing for 510 Students, Preliminary Designs. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings and photographs for the proposed village cluster type of apartment units which followed the hill contours from the University down to Prospect Street on the southern perimeter of the campus. The site would be between the John Carl Warnecke-designed library, Healy Hall, and a large monolithic red brick dormitory. Mr. Dean Price, the campus planner, described the program for this type of housing with its village, pedestrian alleyway, and view-roof decks as being unique and quite progressive. He then introduced architect Mr. Ken Carswell of the Warnecke firm. Mr. Carswell described the context and dark brick materials being proposed as well as the mix of bays, terraces, trellises, etc. which would lend great variety to the complex, while maintaining Georgetown-house scale. The members examined a model depicting this end of the campus, asking a number of questions about materials and details. Mr. Grosvenor Chapman represented the Georgetown Citizens Association and the Georgetown Advisory Neighborhood Commission and gave the design an enthusiastic approval while cautioning on care of brick color and selection. The Commission heard the Georgetown Board's endorsement of the project and approved it unanimously, pending design development, material selection, and working drawings.

2. Appendix 1, approved.

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 78-5, 1889 F Street, N.W., New Office Building - Resubmission. The Secretary presented photographs, drawings, a model, and material samples of this project previously given preliminary approval. He pointed out some differences in the penthouse design and that the garden and tree planting schemes had been simplified. He then introduced project architect for Leo Daly, Mr. Lewis Goetz. Mr. Goetz asked for Commission approval of working drawings and material samples, saying that there were no substantial changes to the design since the initial approval. The Commission examined the drawings and model, indicating that they had questions about the suitability of the screen arcade wall, partially separating the sidewalk from the garden area. They also indicated a lack of support for the brick color proposed. Mr. William Hannan, representing the adjacent property owner, Mrs. R. L. Bacon, asked that the Commission consider a Calvert Rose brick and greenish glass in place of the architect's suggestions. The Commission examined Mr. Hannan's sample, questioning its suitability as well. There was some deliveration with Mrs. Homsey saying that the particular type of window

opening on the building demanded a machine-cut brick with some precision. Mr. Roche said that greenish glass would probably not work with either the design or a suitable brick color, and the other members agreed. The Commission unanimously approved the working drawings, but not the material sample, recommending on-site mockups of some alternatives, including the Calvert Rose, prior to approval, and restudy of the garden wall element between the sidewalk and the garden. The Chairman suggested that in place of the wall a pergola with thickness be considered; Mr. Roche suggested that tree planting may do as well. The Chairman asked that the architect re-think the area and try several alternates to the disapproved scheme for that wall.

2. Appendix 2, approved.

I. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

500 C Street, S.W., Hotel/Commercial/Office Complex. The Assistant Secretary presented a model, photographs, and drawings of this mixed-use project to replace some warehouses next to the railraod tracks in the Southwest urban renewal area. The eastern end of the project would have a pair of office buildings around a courtyard, the western end would have a hotel around a courtyard, and beneath would be shops and gardens. He introduced Joice Cappon from the Department and Lance Bird and architect with HOK-Mills Petticord. Mr. Bird indicated that the design was at an early stage and that energy conservation was a strong design factor, with the potential for one-third of the office building walls being glass, and overhangs on the sunny sides of the buildings. The architectural motif would include round columns, expressed slabs, spandrels, and details yet to be developed. The Commission expressed concern over the difference in roof height of the hotel and office parts of the complex. Mr. Bird explained that this was a factor of the zoning, but the designers and Department were hopeful of achieving a variance to permit a uniform cornice height, as is the case throughout the vicinity. The Chairman pointed out that the paved and planted areas of the courtyards were reversed from the normal sun angles and ought to be examined. Mr. Roche expressed concern and interest in the facade detailing; the Chairman said they hoped greater variety could be achieved. The Commission gave their unanimous approval to the concept and general layout of the project with reservations about the facades, cornice height, and courtyard design.

EXHIBIT H

Historic Subdivisions

Appendix 3, approved.

III. INSPECTIONS

A. Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Defense Intelligence Agency Headquarters Site and Material Samples. Mrs. Homsey, the Chairman, Mr. Roche, the Secretary, and the Assistant Secretary then went to the Bolling Anacostia Tract to inspect the proposed site of the Defense Intelligence Agency Headquarters Building and several material samples. They were met at the site by Mr. Robert Lose and various other members of the consultants staff and the Department offices. The Commission reviewed design drawings set up on the site along with a full-sized mockup of the wall and window panels being proposed for the building. A range from almost white to pewter colored samples of the brished metal surface proposed for the building's skin were examined. The members felt that the original of the samples was the most appropriate, and unanimously recommended proceeding with the design on that basis.

EXHIBIT I

B. U.S. Postal Service

The group then went to the Old City Post Office at North Capitol Street and Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., and inspected the site of a proposed handicapped access ramp. The members found that the proposal was out of keeping with the building and would present a large visible wall of raw concrete to the courtyard facing the entrance along Massachusetts Avenue - inharmonious with the carefully detailed stone building. After much discussion and examination, they recommended additional study, the Chairman suggesting a scheme reversing the proposal and locating the ramp over an areaway to the north of the doorway in question, which would be far less visible. They also recommended some type of symmetrical treatment of the stairs and entrance details.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

EXHIBITION A

8 November, 1977

Dear Mr. Rowe:

I am pleased to report that the Goddard Memorial Sculpture design for Clark University was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on October 25, 1977.

The simplicity of David von Schlegells' sculpture will act as an appropriate counterpoint to the complexity of the surrounding buildings, and should be an effective memorial. The effect can also be enhanced further by using the best possible paving material for the terrace, so we would urge, as does the advisory committee to the University, that stone blocks be used for the pavement.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Herbert J. Rowe
Associate Administrator for
External Affairs
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Washington, D.C. 20546

JCB/CHA:jdl

EXHIBITION B

8 November, 1977

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed designs for the Marian Anderson Medal during its meeting on October 25, 1977.

While we felt that the obverse portrait was acceptable, we had some reservations about the reverse design. We understand the difficulty of portraying such an abstract concept as the world in the hands of God, but felt that, in addition to being too cluttered with details, the reverse design was perhaps too literal. Elimination of the cloud formations, the stars, and the rings around the globe to simplify the design should be helpful.

The Commission meets next on November 22 and December 20, 1977, and we look forward to seeing revised designs for the reverse.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Frank H. MacDonald
Acting Director of the Mint
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D.C. 20220

JCB/CHA:jdl

EXHIBITION C

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

8 November, 1977

Dear Secretary Schlesinger:

Both your Department's seal and that of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission were reviewed by the Commission of Fine Arts at its recent meetings.

When we were asked to look at the Department's seal on September 27, we understood it had already been officially adopted and that orders to place it on stationery and other uses had already been initiated. We regretted the circumstances, since we did not feel the design was satisfactory. In a broad sense, the heraldic character of the seal is out of step with the times, and the depictions of a variety of specific energy uses not only looks cluttered, but most likely will be ineffective at the small scale of the seal used on documents. We feel the same can be said of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission seal which was reviewed at our meeting on October 25.

Even if both these designs are now considered "official", I would hope they will not be considered permanent. They do not reflect well on the government and its continuing efforts to achieve better design.

While we are a review agency and do not initiate designs, we will be happy to discuss ways in which we think a better seal can be achieved. There is a great deal of available talent, so the problem should not be all that difficult.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Hon. James R. Schlesinger
Secretary
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20006

EXHIBITION D

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

8 November, 1977

Dear Mr. Hellmann:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on October 25, 1977, reviewed the design for a new entrance ramp for the handicapped at the City Post Office of North Capitol Street and Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

We feel the proposed scheme is unnecessarily obtrusive and would detract from the appearance of the building.

It would be far better to locate the ramp immediately north of the entrance, over a depressed areaway that is filled with mechanical equipment. The stair is wide enough to retain access to the areaway, and the view of the machinery will be screened from the entranceway.

In order to facilitate review of this project, we will be happy to have our staff work with you in developing the scheme prior to formal resubmission.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Edward E. Hellmann
Field Supervisor
Design and Construction
Baltimore Area Facilities
Office
P.O. Box 701
Columbia, Md. 21045

EXHIBITION E

8 November, 1977

Dear Mr. Denkler:

We were pleased to see the simplified versions for landscaping around the new Federal Reserve Building which we reviewed at our meeting on October 25, 1977. Eliminating the proposed paths around the Robert Owen fountain and treating the area with low ground cover and grass, and keeping the planting simple is far preferable to the earlier scheme.

The area along Virginia Avenue is also improved with the elimination of the large clumps of exotic grasses. There still is room for further simplification, particularly in the variety of tree planting which is also quite rich in its choice of specimens. Keeping the inventory to two or three species is far more suitable for the monumentality of the architectural design, a fact that is so beautifully illustrated by the older Federal Reserve Board Building on Constitution Avenue which has some of the finest landscaping in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. John M. Denkler
Staff Director for Management
Federal Reserve System
Washington, D.C. 20551

JCB/CHA:nn

EXHIBITION F

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

8 November, 1977

Dear Mr. Garrett:

The Commission of Fine Arts inspected material samples and other details for the Columbarium, Arlington National Cemetery, at its meeting on October 25, 1977.

The sandblasted concrete proposed for the exterior walls is not acceptable. It simply does not have the sense of permanence and dignity that the location and the program demand. These walls, after all, are not just architectural structure per se, but are even more closely identified as a part of the actual grave sites, providing for the urns and marker units within these walls. As such, they should convey a sense of lasting and care that only fine natural stone materials can.

We also looked at another sample of material that the project representatives asked us to consider after we had completed out discussion and gone on to other projects. It was also unsuitable. Split faced white cast masonry block has a wide application in all kinds of commercial architecture, but would be entirely out of character at Arlington. In unanimously disapproving it, we reiterated our request for natural stone.

We will be meeting again on November 22, 1977, and will be happy to view any samples you may wish to present for our consideration.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Lee S. Garrett
Chief, Engineering Division
Military Construction
Department of the Army
Office of the Chief of Engineers
Washington, D.C. 20314

EXHIBITION G

8 November, 1977

Dear Jack,

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on October 25, 1977, reviewed the proposals and repairs for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

We are happy to see the designs for the repaving of the terraces, pools, and certain wall surfaces essentially unchanged from the original. Where some small changes are indicated, such as the pool at the main entrance, it would appear that they generally reinforce the original character. This is true in everything except the lighting. Here we are very concerned that there will be a major effect to the view of the building at night. The present lighting is probably one of the most successful aspects of the design, and to alter it drastically is highly questionable.

We do understand, of course, that the present lighting on the main terrace is a source of leaks. However, it is entirely possible to redesign the present fixtures to project a few inches above the surface of the terrace, which would solve the leaks but preserve the current lighting scheme.

Still, we will be glad to keep an open mind about the matter if the lighting consultants seriously believe they can improve on the lighting by eliminating the terrace fixtures and placing new fixtures twenty feet up on the columns. Frankly, we have our doubts. First, the outer edge of the roof overhang is a relatively small surface to bounce the needed light back down the walls and terrace, and, second, there is the very real danger of giving the columns the appearance of being cut off at the "knees". This is the case with the present flagpoles, which have the same system as is proposed for the whole building. The poles pickup the light from the fixture, but are completely dark below it. The result is very disturbing.

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THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

9 November, 1977

Dear Ms. Cappon:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on October 25, 1977, reviewed proposed plans for a large hotel/commercial/office complex at 500 C Street, S.W.

We are delighted to see the development of this block include a mixture of uses such as the hotel and shops. The liveliness of this mixed use will help relieve the preponderance of office space and its deadening effect in the area.

At the same time, the enormous size of the project will benefit not only from such factors as mixed use, but also from careful attention to architectural detail at the human scale. In any large project like this, where the bay spacing, materials, windows, and walls have to have a sense of uniformity if the strength of a design is to be sustained, then fine detailing becomes critical.

We would therefore like to review large-scale wall sections and elevations, particularly those lower areas of the building that are in close range of the viewer. The detailing of the entrances, shop fronts, street landscaping, and courtyards should all be a part of this submission.

Otherwise the general massing and site plan are acceptable except for the hotel, which either looks chopped off or subsided, depending on one's point of view. It should have the same relative cornice height as the rest of the development.

The Commission is meeting again on November 22, and we will be happy to give the matter further consideration at that time.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Ms. Joyce A. Cappon, SRA
Acting Chief, Commercial Branch
D.C. Department of Housing
and Community Development
Washington, D.C. 20005

EXHIBITION 1

8 November, 1977

Dear Commander Goins:

We appreciated the opportunity to see the various material samples and to visit the site for the Defense Intelligence Agency at our meeting on October 25, 1977. The range of materials on display was good, and together with the excellent presentation made by the project representatives, the Commission was provided with a sound basis on which to make a decision.

Our choice happily coincides with the architects'. The full-scale aluminum panel that was mocked up has a good middle value of reflectivity and a good color and tone, not too bright and not too cold. It should work very well in its modular pattern.

We also looked at several samples of masonry that could be used on portions of the surrounding base of the new building. Clearly there were at least two samples, including the brick that was used on the mockup, that were unacceptable. Since the architects appeared to be equally dissatisfied, the Commission would prefer to wait until they have a final recommendation, and to look at their choice at the appropriate time. Detailed landscaping plans could also be viewed at the same meeting. It is important that the Commission have the opportunity to visualize the entire exterior ensemble at one time.

Please let us know whennyou will be able to do this. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 22, and we will be happy to consider the matter further at that time.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Commander P. A. Goins
Department of the Navy
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Chesapeake Division
Building 57, Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20390

JCB/CHA:jdl